

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 CIAE-00
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FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1647

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0982

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS CU
SUBJ: CUBANS EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH US MOVES TO SOLVE FISHING
BYCATCH PROBLEM

REF: A. HAVANA 101, B. STATE 60019, C. HAVANA 803

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS NOTE
EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH US MOVES TO SEEK SOLUTION
TO ATLANTIC FISHERIES BYCATCH PROBLEM AND STATES THAT
CUBANS WILL BEGIN FISHERIES IMMEDIATELY IN US CONSERVATION
ZONE. CUBANS, THEREBY, DROP EARLIER BITTERNESS AND DEMANDS FOR
PRIOR ADJUSTMENT OF BYCATCH LEVELS GRANTED BY US. USINT CONSIDERS
THIS POSITIVE TURN OF EVENTS OF FISHERY FRONT AND HOPES THAT
POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS MENTIONED IN RECENT HAVANA
TALKS CAN BE PUT INTO PRACTICE. END SUMMARY

2. USINT, APRIL 14, RECEIVED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS (MINREX) NOTE 652 DATED APRIL 12 WHICH
EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH RECENT WASHINGTON (REFTEL B)
AND HAVANA (REFTEL C) TECHNICAL FISHERIES TALKS
AND ACTIONS OF US FISHERIES AUTHORITIES IN SEEKING
SOLUTION TO ATLANTIC BYCATCH PROBLEM. NOTE INDICATES
THAT CUBANS WILL BEGIN FISHING IMMEDIATELY IN
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US ZONE WITH ONE TRAWLER AND WILL GRADUALLY INCREASE
NUMBER TO FOUR. CUBANS STATE THAT BEGINNING OF FISHING
ACTIVITY DOES NOT PREJUDICE THEIR EARLIER DEMANDS FOR
CHANGE IN US BYCATCH LEVELS AND REGULATIONS (REFTEL A).
BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT CUBANS NOW ACCEPT THAT USG IS NOT
SEEKING MALICIOUSLY TO CUT OFF CUBAN FISHING, AND THAT
WAY MAY OPEN UP TO PURSUE COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE FISHING

ACTIVITY WITHIN QUOTAS ASSIGNED BY US. INFORMAL TRANSLATION
OF OPERATIVE PORTION OF NOTE FOLLOWS.

3. MINREX WISHES TO REFER TO BEGIN QUOTE NOTE 42 OF
JANUARY 6, 1978 (REFTEL A) IN WHICH THE IMPOSSIBILITY
OF REALIZING THE CATCH OF FISH ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 1978 AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL AND
WITH A MINIMUM OF EFFICIENCY WAS POINTED OUT, AND THEREFORE,
THE UTILITY OF HOLDING CONVERSATIONS TO ARRIVE AT A RECONSIDERA-
TION OF THE PROBLEMS POSED, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO ACCOMPANY-
ING SPECIES AND BYCATCH, WAS SUGGESTED. EVEN THOUGH THE
CONDITIONS WHICH MOTIVATED THE PRESENTATION OF THE CITED
NOTE STILL EXIST WITHOUT CHANGES FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF
VIEW UP TO THE PRESENT, THE CONVERSATIONS HELD IN
WASHINGTON AND HAVANA BY DELEGATIONS OF BOTH
COUNTRIES, AND THE ACTIONS INITIATED IN THIS REGARD
BY THE UNITED STATES' FISHING AUTHORITIES LOOKING
TOWARD AN ADEQUATE SOLUTION TO THE BYCATCH PROBLEM.
HAVE CAUSED THE CUBAN FISHING AUTHORITIES TO RECONSIDER
THEIR DECISION AND TO PREPARE TO BEGIN FISHING FOR THE
QUOTAS ASSIGNED TO OUR COUNTRY FOR 1978 BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES, BY VIRTUE OF THE FISHING AGREEMENT
SIGNED APRIL 27, 1977, AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, TO SEND IN
ONE TRAWLER IMMEDIATELY WHICH OTHER FISHING BOATS
WILL GRADUALLY JOIN, EVENTUALLY REACHING AN ESTIMATED TOTAL
OF FOUR BOATS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS UTILIZES THIS
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MEANS TO EXPRESS THE FACT THAT THE BEGINNING OF FISHERIES
UNDER PREVAILING CONDITIONS DOES NOT PREJUDICE NOR MODIFY
THE CLAIMS THAT THE CITED CONDITIONS BE MODIFIED, AND, AS A
CONSEQUENCE, REITERATES THE CONSIDERATIONS AND PROPOSITIONS
CONTAINED IN THE CITED NOTE 42 AND DISCUSSED IN THE
ABOVE-CITED CONVERSATIONS. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: CUBAN NOTE IS SIGNIFICANT, PRIMARILY BECAUSE
IT CONSTITUTES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY HAVANA THAT THE USG IS
DEALING WITH CUBA ON FISHERIES FROM A POSITION OF GOOD FAITH.
THIS ENHANCES THE CREDIBILITY IN HAVANA'S EYES OF POSSIBLE
FUTURE USG GESTURES TOWARD CUBA IN THE ECONOMIC AREA--THE
PRIME MEANS WE HAVE TO LURE THE CUBANS INTO A MORE
REASONABLE POSTURE ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US. ACCORDINGLY
WE HOPE THAT THE POSSIBLE BYCATCH ACCOMMODATION SKETCHED OUT
DURING RECENT HAVANA TALKS (REFTEL C) CAN BE BROUGHT TO FRUITION.
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